

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 1 as follows:

The process of the invention for preparing a singly or multiply coated platelet-shaped carrier material comprises, in the case of a single coating,
a first step in which an inorganic platelet-shaped substrate is suspended in a basic aqueous medium, comprising melamine and formaldehyde and/or methylolmelamine methylolunelamine, which may optionally have been alkoxylated, and
a second step in which crosslinking of the organic constituents is brought about by lowering the pH into the acidic range, and, in the case of a multiple coating,
repeating the first and second step with the product of the preceding coating operation.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 16 as follows:

It has been found that it is particularly advantageous to bring about the lowering of the pH in the second step of the process by adding hydrogen peroxide to oxidize excess or unreacted formaldehyde from the first step of the process to formic acid. Since formaldehyde is problematic in cosmetic applications, it is thereby possible to provide a pigment which is free from free formaldehyde molecules and is therefore cosmetically acceptable. This also works with methylolmelamines methylolunelamines, since they generally still contain sufficient amounts of free formaldehyde.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 27 as follows:

In the process of the invention, some of the melamine may be replaced by other crosslinking molecules from the group consisting of guanamines, phenols and ureas and/or some of the methylolmelamine methylolunelamine may be replaced by corresponding guanamine, phenol or urea analogues.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 32 as follows:

In accordance with a method described in DD 224 602, functional groups are incorporated

into the surface of the polymer particles by effecting the polycondensation reaction of the melamine-formaldehyde resin in the presence of amino-functional compounds which in addition to the amino group carry further functional groups. The amino-functional compounds are added in amounts of preferably from 2 to 20 mol per cent based on the amount of methylolmelamine methylolurethane used, and are incorporated into the melamine-formaldehyde network by way of the amino function. Thus when using, for example, amino acids it is possible to incorporate carboxyl groups or, in the case of sulphobetaines or aminophosphonic acids, sulpho groups or phosphonic acid groups, respectively, into the surface of the particles. -COOH, -SO₃H and/or -PO₂H groups of this kind may in turn be reacted with other compounds. For example, the acid groups can be converted into the corresponding acid chlorides by reaction with thionyl chloride, and these acid chlorides can in turn be reacted, for example, with alcohols or amines to give the corresponding esters or amides, respectively. This method of surface modification is characterized by its simplicity, since the surface of the melamine-formaldehyde resin is functionalized directly in one, easily modified, condensation operation. However, a possible disadvantageous effect is the incorporation, as a result of the condensation operation, of the corresponding functionalities in the polymer bulk as well, which may reduce adhesion to the underlying layers or, in the case of a single-layer system, adhesion to the substrate. On the other hand, given an appropriate selection, for certain systems the adhesion to the underlying layers or to the substrate may be enhanced if the surface modifier introduces groups which not only improve compatibility with the ambient medium but also impart adhesion to the underlying layers or to the substrate. As a result of incorporation into the melamine-formaldehyde network, however, this method requires relatively large quantities of the surface functionalizer. Additionally, relatively complex chemical functionalities are only obtainable with difficulty by simple incorporation during the polycondensation.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 11, line 38 as follows:

Another method of surface functionalization therefore starts from a ready-polycondensed melamine-formaldehyde surface which has free, uncrosslinked methylolmelamine methylolurethane (NH-CH₂OH-) or amino groups. These groups may be reacted, for example, with carbonyl chlorides in a simple way. When using long-chain carbonyl chlorides, for example, it is possible to hydrophobize the pigment in this way. Using perfluorinated acid

chlorides such as perfluorooctanoic acid, for example, both hydrophobic and lipophobic surfaces may be obtained. Through the use of complex acid chlorides, which may contain, for example, groups which are strong absorbers of UV light, the melamine-formaldehyde surface may also contain further functionalities, e.g. a UV protectant. One example of the subsequent hydrophobization of a pigment surface is depicted in Example 9.

Please insert the following into the specification on page 18, line 22:

Brief Description of Drawings:

Figure 1 illustrates the resulting product of example 1.

Figure 2 illustrates the resulting product of example 5.